(b) whether it is a fact that a portion of walls already constructed has gone up in some areas where sea water gushes in during high tide, destroying crops and submerging roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the justification and safeguards taken by Government in implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the report of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation on Andaman & Nicobar Islands (May, 2005), following the December, 2004 tsunami, there is a northeast-southwest tilt, whereby the northernmost inhabited region in North Andaman, Diglipur, has risen between 0.5 and 0.8 mts., whereas India's southernmost point (Indira Point) on Greater Nicobar Island has sunk by between 1.4 and 1.5 mts. The high tide seawater now inundates agricultural lands and coconut forests in several parts of South Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(d) Does not arise.

Request from foreign countries for Gharials

1317. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign countries had evinced keen interest to get Gharials, now almost on the verge of extinction, from India;

(b) if so, the number of requests pending with Government;

(c) whether Government had held talks with any country for an international exchange;

(d) if so, the details of the talks held so far with different countries;

(e) the outcome thereof; and

(f) whether Government have given any nod for the exchange programme with the Nandankanan Park with a few pairs of Gharials with Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. In the past, there had been requests from foreign zoos for exchange of Gharials from Indian Zoos.

(b) At present, there is no such request pending with the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry for exchange of Gharials between Nandankanan Park and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Report of CBI about poaching of tigers in Sariska reserve

1318. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to form Tiger Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has submitted report about poaching of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17-03-2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Task Force has been constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a Preliminary Assessment ragarding disappearance of tigers in the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan. The report indicates that there is no evidence of tiger presence in Sariska, and the entire population seems to have become extinct primarily because of poaching. It is also reported that